

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph beginning in line 21 on page 11 as indicated:

The metal salt of a fatty acid used as component (D) (thermal stabilizer) in the present invention is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an ~~alkaline~~ alkali metal salt of a fatty acid and an alkaline earth metal salt of a fatty acid.

Amend the paragraph beginning in line 26 on page 11 as indicated:

Examples of the ~~alkaline~~ alkali metal fatty acid salt and the alkaline earth metal salt are calcium dimyristate, calcium dipalmitate, calcium diheptadecylate, calcium distearate, calcium (myristate-palmitate), calcium (myristate-stearate), calcium (palmitate-stearate), lithium myristate, lithium palmitate, lithium heptadecylate and lithium stearate. Of these compounds, a lithium salt of a fatty acid such as lithium palmitate and lithium stearate; and a calcium salt of a fatty acid such as calcium distearate are preferred, and lithium stearate are especially preferred. These compounds may be used either singly or as a mixture of two or more of them.